

# Nasilje među medicinskim sestrama

## Violence among nurses

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### Sažetak

Zlostavljanje na poslu najčešće se događa u zdravstvu. Medicinske su sestre najranjivije i izložene su raznim oblicima nasilja. Sestrinstvo je zapravo četiri puta više izloženo zlostavljanju od većine drugih profesija. Najčešći je oblik nasilja lateralno nasilje koje se često definira kao čin prijetnje, ponižavanja ili fizičkog, mentalnog ili emocionalnog ozljedivanja pojedinca ili skupine. Učestalost nasilja najbolje ilustriraju istraživanja koja pokazuju da će se 90 % medicinskih sestara u nekom trenutku svoje karijere susresti s lateralnim nasiljem. Prema istraživanjima provedenima u Hrvatskoj, 91,3 % medicinskih sestara i tehničara primijetilo je ili doživjelo lateralno nasilje na poslu. Osim toga, gotovo polovica njih svakodnevno svjedoči nasilju. Zlostavljanje medicinskih sestara može uzrokovati ozbiljnu depresiju i nisko samopoštovanje. Medicinske sestre koje često doživljavaju lateralno nasilje obraćaju manje pažnje na svoje pacijente i dužnosti sestre, što može rezultirati pogreškama u liječenju ili ozljedama pacijenata. Zaključno, zdravstveno okruženje i njega pacijenata poboljšat će se smanjenjem lateralnog nasilja.

**Ključne riječi:** zdravstveno okruženje, sestrinstvo, depresija, maltretiranje

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### Uvod

Prema Međunarodnoj organizaciji rada (engl. ILO) zlostavljanje na radnom mjestu najčešće se događa u zdravstvenom sektoru [1]. Zdravstvena profesija klasificira se kao visoko stresna zbog odgovornosti za život i zdravlje ljudi, kao i izloženosti specifičnim stresorima poput kemijskih, bioloških i fizičkih opasnosti te smjenskog rada. Produceno radno vrijeme, smjenski i noćni rad, odgovornost u donošenju odluka, kontakt s pacijentima i njihovim obiteljima te emocionalna iscrpljenost zdravstvenih djelatnika doprinose povećanom morbiditetu psihičkih poremećaja i psihosomatiskih bolesti [2]. Međunarodno vijeće medicinskih sestara u smjernicama za suočavanje s nasiljem na radnom mjestu ističe da su medicinske sestre najranjivije i najizloženije različitim oblicima nasilja od strane pacijenata i njihovih obitelji, kao i od drugih zdravstvenih djelatnika [3]. Zapravo, sestrinstvo je četiri puta izloženije nasilju od većine drugih zanimanja [4].

### Definicija lateralnog nasilja

U sestrinstvu, najčešći je oblik nasilja lateralno nasilje, također poznato kao horizontalno nasilje. Lateralno se nasi-

### Abstract

In the healthcare industry, bullying at work happens most frequently. Nurses are the most vulnerable and exposed to various forms of violence. Nursing is four times more exposed than the majority of other professions. The most common form of violence is lateral violence, often defined as an act of threatening, humiliating, or physically, mentally, or emotionally harming an individual or group. The frequency of violence is best illustrated by research, which indicates that 90% of nurses will encounter lateral violence at some time in their careers. According to studies conducted in Croatia, 91,3% of nurses and technicians have either observed or experienced lateral violence at work. Additionally, almost half of them witness violence every day. Abuse of nurses can cause serious depression and low self-esteem. Nurses who experience lateral violence frequently pay less attention to their patients and nursing duties, which may result in medication errors or patient injuries. In conclusion, the healthcare environment and patient care will be improved by reducing lateral violence.

**Keywords:** healthcare environment, nursing, depression, bullying

### Introduction

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), workplace bullying occurs most frequently in the healthcare sector [1]. The health profession is classified as highly stressful due to the high responsibility for human life and health, as well as exposure to specific stressors such as chemical, biological, and physical hazards and shift work. Extended working hours, shift and night work, decision-making responsibility, contact with patients and their families, and emotional exhaustion in healthcare workers contribute to increased morbidity of mental disorders and psychosomatic diseases [2]. The International Council of Nursing emphasizes in Guidelines for Coping with Violence in the Workplace [3] that nurses are the most vulnerable and exposed to various forms of violence by patients and their families, as well as other healthcare professionals. Nursing is four times more exposed than most other professions [4].

### Definition of lateral violence

In nursing, the most common form of violence is lateral violence, also known as horizontal violence. Lateral violence

Ije definira kao štetno ponašanje koje na radnom mjestu pokazuje jedan zaposlenik prema drugom [5]. Lateralno je nasilje čin prijetnje, ponižavanja ili fizičkog, mentalnog ili emocionalnog ozljeđivanja pojedinca ili grupe. Nestrpljivi odgovori na pitanja neiskusnih medicinskih sestara, neprijetni komentari, verbalni napadi, snishodljiv jezik, uskraćivanje informacija, pa čak i izljevi bijesa, primjeri su lateralnog nasilja [6, 7]. Nedostatak suradnje, napad na integritet ili profesionalni ugled osobe, okrivljavanje članova tima kada nešto podje po zlu, okrivljavanje drugih pred pacijentom ili članom pacijentove obitelji, nedostatak empatije ili narušavanje povjerenja također su primjeri nasilja [7]. Važno je napomenuti da medicinske sestre u svim fazama svoje karijere, uključujući studente, početnike, pa čak i iskusne profesionalce, mogu biti izložene lateralnom nasilju [6].

## **Učestalost nasilja**

Ukupno 90 % medicinskih sestara doživjet će lateralno nasilje u nekom trenutku svoje karijere [8]. Prema Hainesu [9], između 64 i 80 % medicinskih sestara tvrdi da su vidjele nasilje ili su bile žrtve lateralnog nasilja. U jednom istraživanju na ukupnom uzorku od 151 307 medicinskih sestara, 35 % njih bilo je izloženo fizičkom, a 59,5 % nefizičkom nasilju [10]. Purpora i Beglen [11] istaknuli su da su lateralnim nasiljem najviše pogodjene medicinske sestre na odjelima intenzivne njege i kirurškim odjelima.

U Hrvatskoj se lateralno nasilje definira kao neočekivani, neplanirani događaj koji se mora prijaviti Agenciji za kvalitetu i akreditaciju u zdravstvu i socijalnoj skrbi [12]. Agencija navodi da je medicinsko osoblje doživjelo 330 verbalnih i 720 fizičkih neželjenih događaja u bolničkim uvjetima tijekom 2017. godine. U osječkoj studiji iz 2017. godine [13], ukupno 64 % sudionika izjavilo je da je doživjelo vikanje i druge iracionalne ispade, a 68 % njih reklo je da je čulo glasine i tračeve koji se o njima šire. Ukupno 110 ispitanika (40 %) od 275 reklo je da je doživjelo uznemiravanje na radnom mjestu u prethodnih šest mjeseci. Tri događaja ili više neželjenih događaja odvijalo se tjedno ili dnevno za 18 % ispitanika [13]. Nadalje, ista studija tvrdi da su magistri sestrinstva češće zlostavljeni od onih nižeg stupnja obrazovanja. Mačković [14] u svojem istraživanju ( $n = 483$ ) iz 2022. godine tvrdi da je 91,3 % medicinskih sestara i tehničara doživjelo (bilo žrtvama) ili svjedočilo lateralnom nasilju tijekom svojeg radnog iskustva. Na pitanje: „Koliko često na Vašem radnom mjestu vidite svoje kolege da se ponašaju u skladu s lateralnim nasiljem?” gotovo polovica ispitanika, njih 46,2 %, navodi svakodnevno [14].

## **Lateralno nasilje i posljedice**

Brojna istraživanja [15 – 19] pokazuju da su medicinske sestre iskusile osjećaje krivnje, straha, panike i nesigurnosti. PTSD, anksioznost, povišeni krvni tlak, glavobolje, znojenje, mučnina i povraćanje, kao i poremećaji prehrane, poremećaji spavanja i noćne more također se mogu manifestirati u mnogim slučajevima. Medicinski djelatnici koji su zlostavljeni mogu doživjeti stres, sram, zloupotrebljavati supstance ili čak imati suicidalno ponašanje [20]. Zlostavljanje medicinskih sestara može dovesti do niskog samopoštovanja i

is defined as harmful behavior displayed in the workplace by one employee toward another [5]. Lateral violence is the act of threatening, humiliating, or physically, mentally, or emotionally harming an individual or group. Impatient responses to questions from inexperienced nurses, rude comments, verbal attacks, condescending language, withholding information, and even temper tantrums are all examples of lateral violence [6, 7]. Lack of collaboration, attacking a person's integrity or professional reputation, blaming team members when something goes wrong, blaming others in front of a patient or a patient's family member, lacking empathy, or breaking confidence are all examples of violence [7]. It is significant to note that nurses in all stages of their careers, including students, newcomers, and even experienced professionals, may be exposed to lateral violence [6].

## **Frequency of violence**

90% of nurses will experience lateral violence at some point in their careers [8]. According to Haines [9], between 64 and 80 percent of nurses claimed to have seen or been the victim of lateral violence. In one study on a total sample of 151 307 nurses, 35% of them were exposed to physical violence and 59.5% to non-physical violence [10]. Purpora and Beglen [11] pointed out that intensive care units and surgical wards were the most affected by lateral violence.

In Croatia, lateral violence is defined as an unexpected, unplanned event that must be reported to the Agency for Quality and Accreditation in Healthcare and Social Care [12].

According to the Agency, medical staff members experienced 330 verbal and 720 physical adverse events in hospital settings in 2017. In a 2017 Osijek study [13], 64% of participants reported hearing screaming and other irrational outbursts, and 68% said they had heard rumors and gossip spread about them. 110 respondents (or 40%) out of 275 said they had experienced workplace harassment in the previous six months. Three or more unfavorable events occurred on a weekly or daily basis for 18% of the respondents [13]. Furthermore, the same study claims that master's degree nurses are abused more frequently than those with a lower level of education. Mačković [14] claims in her research ( $n = 483$ ) from 2022 that 91,3% of nurses and technicians have experienced (been a victim of) or witnessed lateral violence during their work experience. To the question: *How often do you see your colleagues behaving in accordance with lateral violence at your workplace?* almost half of the respondents, 46.2%, say they see it every day [14].

## **Lateral violence and consequence**

Numerous studies [15-19] demonstrate that nurses have experienced feelings of guilt, fear, panic, and insecurity. PTSD, anxiety, raised blood pressure, headaches, sweating, nausea and vomiting, as well as eating disorders, sleep disorders, and nightmares, can also manifest in many cases. Co-workers who are victimized may experience stress, shame, substance abuse, or even suicidal behavior [20]. Abuse

teške depresije [20]. Ne samo da lateralno nasilje može biti štetno za medicinske sestre nego može imati i ozbiljne posljedice za pacijente. Medicinske sestre koje su žrtve lateralnog nasilja često posvećuju manje pažnje medicinskim zadacima i svojim pacijentima, što može dovesti do pogrešaka u liječenju ili ozljeđivanja pacijenta [21]. Kad se sve navedeno uzme u obzir, nije iznenadujuće da je gotovo polovica sudionika u jednoj studiji izjavila da je napustila posao ili je razmišljala o napuštanju posla, kao izravan rezultat lateralnog nasilja i nepodržavajućeg menadžmenta, a 21% njih razmišljalo je o potpunom napuštanju profesije medicinske sestre [22].

## Zaključak

Kao i kod mnogih drugih problema, njihovo priznanje može biti dio rješenja. Podizanje svijesti o postojanju lateralnog nasilja te prepoznavanje istog kao velikog problema u mnogim bolničkim radnim okruženjima može potaknuti dijalog i pomoći u iniciranju rješenja na radnom mjestu. Pronalaženje izvora lateralnog nasilja i stalna edukacija o pristojnom ponašanju u timskoj komunikaciji prijeko su potrebni. Možemo stvoriti radnu okolinu punu suradnje i poštovanja pružajući svim medicinskim sestrama, bez obzira na razinu obrazovanja, komunikacijske vještine potrebne za rješavanje nasilja. Zdravstveno okruženje i njega pacijenta poboljšat će se smanjenjem lateralnog nasilja.

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of nurses can lead to low self-esteem and severe depression [20]. Not only is lateral violence harmful to nurses, but it can also have serious consequences for patients. Nurses who are victims of lateral violence often pay less attention to nursing tasks and their patients, which may lead to medication errors or injury to patients [21]. Considering all above, it is not surprising that nearly half of the participants in one study reported having either left or considered leaving a job as a direct result of lateral violence and unsupportive management, and 21% had considered leaving the nursing profession entirely [22].

## Conclusion

As with many problems, acknowledging them may be part of the solution. Raising awareness that lateral violence exists and is a major problem in many hospital work settings can stimulate dialogue and help initiate workplace solutions. Finding the source of lateral violence and constant education about polite behavior in team communication are necessary. We can create a collaborative and respectful work environment by providing all nurses, regardless of education level, the communication skills required to handle abuse. The healthcare environment and patient care will be improved by reducing lateral violence.

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